

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle~~beverage container, comprising:

a bottom wall, the bottom wall having a recessed portion formed therein to receive one or more fingers of a hand of a user when the user is pouring liquid out of the container; and

a side wall attached to the bottom wall, the side wall defining an opening on an upper portion thereof, the side wall having a groove formed in an outer surface thereof to receive one or more other fingers of the hand of the user when the user is pouring liquid out of the container, the groove having a portion that is sloped to run from a position that is relatively closer to the bottom wall to a position that is relatively further from the bottom wall;

wherein the bottom wall and the side wall are formed to contain liquids within the container, the liquids being provided to and removed from the container via the opening.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle~~container as defined in claim 1, wherein the user places their thumb in the groove and one or more of the other fingers on their hand in the recess.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle~~container as defined in claim 1, wherein the user places their thumb in the groove.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle~~container as defined in claim 1, wherein the groove has two portions that are sloped to run from a position that is relatively closer to the bottom wall to a position that is relatively further from the bottom wall.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle~~container as defined in claim 5, wherein the two portions are sloped in opposite directions.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle~~container as defined in claim 6, wherein the two portions together form a V shape.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle container~~ as defined in claim 7, wherein the V shape points away from the bottom wall.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle container~~ as defined in claim 1, wherein the side wall includes four faces that each extend from the bottom wall up toward the opening, with the groove formed in a single one of the faces.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle container~~ as defined in claim 9, wherein each of the faces is slightly curved with respect to a longitudinal axis and the faces join to adjacent faces at rounded edges.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle container~~ as defined in claim 9, wherein a bottom corner of the container is formed by the conjunction of the bottom wall and any two of the faces, and wherein the bottom and side walls, the recessed portion and the groove are configured to allow a user to grasp each of the groove and the recessed portion to allow the user to pour liquid out of the container while holding one of the bottom corners of the container.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle container~~ as defined in claim 11, wherein the user holds the bottom corner of the container in the palm of their hand.

13. (Previously Presented) A beverage container, comprising:
a bottom wall; and
a side wall attached to the bottom wall, the side wall defining an opening on an upper portion thereof, wherein the side wall includes at least three faces that each extend from the bottom wall up toward the opening, the side wall having a gripping portion formed in an outer surface of one of the faces to receive one or more fingers of a hand of a user when the user is pouring liquid out of the container, a bottom corner of the container being formed by the conjunction of the bottom wall and any two of the faces;

wherein the bottom wall and the side wall are formed to contain liquids within the container, the liquids being provided to and removed from the container via the opening; and

wherein the bottom and side walls and the gripping portion on the face of the side wall are configured to allow a user to grasp each of the gripping portion and at least a portion of the bottom wall with a first hand to allow the user to pour liquid out of the container while holding one of the bottom corners of the container.

14. (Original) A container as defined in claim 13, wherein the bottom wall has a recessed portion formed therein to receive one or more other fingers of the hand of the user when the user is pouring liquid out of the container.

15. (Original) A container as defined in claim 14, wherein the gripping portion on the side wall includes a groove having a portion that is sloped to run from a position that is relatively closer to the bottom wall to a position that is relatively further from the bottom wall.

16. (Original) A container as defined in claim 15, wherein the user places their thumb in the groove and one or more of the other fingers on their hand in the recess.

17. (Original) A container as defined in claim 13, wherein the gripping portion on the side wall includes a groove having a portion that is sloped to run from a position that is relatively closer to the bottom wall to a position that is relatively further from the bottom wall.

18. (Original) A container as defined in claim 17, wherein the user places their thumb in the groove.

19. (Original) A container as defined in claim 17, wherein the groove has two portions that are sloped to run from a position that is relatively closer to the bottom wall to a position that is relatively further from the bottom wall.

20. (Original) A container as defined in claim 19, wherein the two portions are sloped

in opposite directions.

21. (Original) A container as defined in claim 20, wherein the two portions together form a V shape.

22. (Original) A container as defined in claim 21, wherein the V shape points away from the bottom wall.

23. (Original) A container as defined in claim 13, wherein the side wall includes four faces that each extend from the bottom wall up toward the opening.

24. (Original) A container as defined in claim 23, wherein each of the faces is slightly curved with respect to a longitudinal axis and the faces join to adjacent faces at rounded edges.

25. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle container~~ as defined in claim 1, wherein the beverage container is substantially too large to allow an average-sized hand to grip opposite sides of the side wall proximate to the bottom wall of the container simultaneously.

26. (Previously Presented) A container as defined in claim 13, wherein the beverage container is configured to be grasped by the user with two hands when pouring liquid out of the container, said second hand grasping the container around the opening.

27. (Previously Presented) A container as defined in claim 26, wherein said configuration comprises a bail handle around the opening of the container.

28. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle container~~ as defined in claim 1, wherein the side wall extends substantially vertically from the bottom wall to a tapered surface formed between the opening and the vertical portion of the side wall.

29. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle container~~ as defined in claim 1, wherein the container has a central axis and the opening is symmetric about the central axis.

30. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle container~~ as defined in claim 1, wherein the side

wall further comprises at least three faces that each extend from the bottom wall up toward the opening, with the groove formed in a single one of the faces.

31. (Currently Amended) A ~~bottle container~~ as defined in claim 1, wherein the side wall contains one and only one said groove.

32. (Previously Presented) A beverage container, comprising:
a bottom wall containing a recessed area centrally located in the bottom wall, wherein the bottom wall is generally square with rounded corners, wherein furthermore the recessed area is formed therein to receive one or more fingers of a hand of a user when the user is pouring liquid out of the container;

a side wall attached to the bottom wall, the side wall having four faces that each extend vertically from the bottom wall, wherein each face contains a plurality of horizontal ribs, furthermore wherein each face is slightly curved with respect to the central axis of the container and the faces join adjacent faces at rounded edges;

a top opening wherein said opening is circular and is externally threaded; and

a transitional wall between the opening and the side wall wherein the transitional wall connects the circular opening to the generally square with rounded corners formed by the top of the side wall, wherein the transitional wall is generally domed shape with the opening at the top;

wherein the container contains four bottom corners wherein each bottom corner is rounded and is formed by the conjunction of the bottom wall and two of the faces;

wherein a single face of said side wall having four faces includes a groove formed in the outer surface thereof to receive one or more other fingers up the hand of the user when the user is pouring liquid out of the container, the groove having two portions sloped to run from a position that is relatively closer to the bottom wall to a position that is relatively further from the

bottom wall, wherein the two portions are sloped in opposite directions and together form a V shape that points away from the bottom wall; and

wherein the bottom wall, the side wall and the transitional wall are formed to contain liquids within the container, the liquids being provided to and removed from the container via the opening.

33. (New) A beverage container, comprising:

a bottom wall, the bottom wall having a recessed portion formed therein to receive one or more fingers of a hand of a user when the user is pouring liquid out of the container; and

a side wall attached to the bottom wall, the side wall defining an opening on an upper portion thereof, the side wall having a groove formed in an outer surface thereof to receive one or more other fingers of the hand of the user when the user is pouring liquid out of the container, the groove having a portion that is sloped to run from a position that is relatively closer to the bottom wall to a position that is relatively further from the bottom wall;

wherein the bottom wall and the side wall are formed to contain liquids within the container, the liquids being provided to and removed from the container via the opening,

wherein the opening is smaller than the bottom wall.

34. (New) A container as defined in claim 33, wherein the opening is cylindrical.

35. (New) A container as defined in claim 34, wherein the opening includes external threads.

36. (New) A container as defined in claim 33, wherein the side wall includes a crown portion, wherein within at least a portion of the crown portion a cross sectional area of said container, the cross sectional area defined by the side wall and parallel to the bottom wall, decreases as a distance from the bottom wall increases.